

[Geo. Borchers]

[??] Dup

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 22, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of [informant] Geo. [Borchers?], 1757 26th Ave., Columbus, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 21, 1 - 3-30 p.m.
3. Place of interview At his home
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Living room, comfortable furnishings; well kept modern house.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 22, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Geo. Borchers, 1757 26th Ave., Columbus, Nebr.

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1. Ancestry German
2. Place and date of birth Oldenburg, Germany. July 21, 1852.
3. Family Widower; 2 children living
4. Place lived in, with dates Germany 1852-1884; Decatur, Ill. 1884-1892; Defiance, Ia. 1886-1892; Sherman township Platte Co. 1892-1914; Columbus, Nebr., 1914 to date.
5. Education, with dates Public schools, Germany 1859-1868.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farm hand 25 years; Farming 1892-1914.
7. Special skills and interests General farming
8. Community and religious activities German baptist church; active in all church and moral welfare.
9. Description of informant Small of physique; 5' tall about 130[#?]
10. Other points gained in interview Very religious; born of poor parents, he started early in life to make his own living and by hard work and thriftiness he made his way unaided and whatever success he achieved or enjoyed is the direct reward of his earnest purpose and effort.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Eilert Mohlman, ADDRESS Columbus, Nebr.

DATE Nov. 22, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

Library of Congress

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Geo. Borchers, 1757 26th Ave., Columbus, Nebr.

When I was seven years old I left the home of my parents and started herding cattle for five years, and also worked as a hired hand for over five years. I only went to school a few months in the years so did not get much of an education as always had to work and help out.

My father died when I was fifteen years old; he was a laborer and never came to this country.

There was an uncle of mine living in Ohio who they told me was well off, so I decided to come to America where I believed there would be a better chance to make a living. So with two friends we started out in 1884 and we came to Decatur, Illinois, at which place I knew a man who was a section boss. We got there early in the morning and when we got off the train we stood around at the depot not knowing where to go, when we saw a man come running along the track toward us; I remember he had on boots and a long coat which had long torn slips on it and I can see him yet in the wind running toward us. He said "well boys did you come"? He then invited us over to his house for something to eat, and when we sat down to the table he said that it was always their custom to pray at the table and this was [?] something entirely new to my two friends and thought it strange to pray before a meal and I remember they joked about it.

I stayed there on a farm with a man named Dirks and he wanted me to stay there near him and rent a farm. I did not know what to do and he told me that farming would be the best work to get into.

I did not have much money to get started with, but had saved \$200. and he told me I should rent an eighty acre farm that was near him; so bought a team of horses for \$300

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and paid \$200 down on them and he was glad to give me a years time to pay the balance. I was always very particular in taking care of my horses.

The people that I stayed with had just a small house so they built a shed on the east side of their house for me. It was just a shed made of wide boards with big cracks between them. In the winter I put my horse blankets on the bed and some mornings when it had snowed I would be nearly covered up with snow. I stayed there about two years when I went to Defiance, Iowa, and there I was married and farmed till 1892 when we came to Platte County.

Supplementary

Mr. Borchers, a farm hand for many years, first located in Macon County, Illinois, then to Shelby County, Iowa, where he lived until 1892, coming then to Platte County, Nebr., and first rented a farm near Tarnov, in Burrows Township, where he farmed for three years; when he again removed to the vicinity of Platte Center, where he rented a farm for six years and by his hard work and careful saving, he was enabled to purchase his own farm in Sherman Township, where he made many new improvements, a new house, barns and sheds and a water works system, retiring from active work in 1914 and moving to Columbus, Nebr.

While his education privileges were limited, he acquired a fair education and still retains a good memory.

While still on the farm he aided in organizing the congregation of the german baptist church which met near his farm home. He has held various offices in the church and at all times he has been active in advancing the cause of religion, and takes a deep interest in the moral progress of his community. He has one son and daughter; the son being a Baptist minister in South Dakota.

